## TOWNSHIP OF FREDON RESOLUTION 2022-53

## RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FREDON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS' TO MAKE THEIR OWN INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND EXPOSURE TO SENSITIVE INFORMATION

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Legislature and Governor have adopted and enacted amendments to the New Jersey Educational Curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year, the effect of which is to teach sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula to children in New Jersey and, particularly, in Fredon Township, as early as grades K-2; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, the legislation provides for discussion and topics in connection with gender and sexual orientation as part of the curriculum for kindergarten through twelfth grade beginning in the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, it is the overwhelming opinion of this governing body that Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey State Legislature have no business regulating, legislating, directing, or dictating matters that are, and should be, decided solely and exclusively by parents in said parents' best judgment as to health, safety, and welfare of their children; and

**WHEREAS**, recent guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the associated sample curricula regarding same is disturbing and concerning to the parents and residents of Fredon Township and throughout New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, Township Committee members have been contacted by residents regarding this sensitive issue; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education's guidelines were promulgated, and the legislation passed and signed into law in 2020 and 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when New Jersey residents were sheltering in place, preoccupied with the pandemic, and there was not sufficient time or opportunity for public comment; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the foregoing, Fredon Township parents specifically, and New Jersey parents generally, did not have any input into creating the sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula that will be taught to Fredon Township children under the legislation and guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee does not support discussion and materials relating to sexual orientation for children beginning with the kindergarten curriculum; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the overwhelming opinion of this governing body that the decision to teach sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula to children is best left to the sound discretion of those children's parents, local communities, and local districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee calls on Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Legislature, and the Department of Education to return such decisions to local School Boards regarding such sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula for our children; and

**WHEREAS**, as a show of support for Fredon Township families, the Mayor and Comittee also desire to work with Township parents, community leaders, and professionals to develop the framework for a Parents' Bill of Rights to use as a model for local schools that will, among other things, protect our children, notify our parents of the curricula being taught in our schools, and allow parents to make their own informed decisions regarding their children's education and exposure to sensitive information; and

**WHEREAS**, public interest demands that parents have an opportunity to be heard on the issue of this curricula.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Fredon, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. We demand that Governor Phil Murphy, the New Jersey State Legislature, and the Department of Education ban the sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula for young children that was developed out of the aforesaid guidelines, legislation, and sample curricula.
- 2. We appeal to the Fredon Township Board of Education to reject the recent guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the associated sample curricula.
- 3. All appropriate Township officials are authorized and directed to work with our parents, community leaders, educators, and professionals to develop the framework for a Parents' Bill of Rights to use as a model for our local schools that will serve, among other things, as a guide to protect our children, notify parents of the curricula being taught to their children in our schools, and allow parents to make their own informed decisions regarding their children's education and exposure to sensitive information.
- 3. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward this resolution to Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Legislature, the Department of Education, the County Superintendent of Schools, the local School Boards and private and charter schools, New Jersey League of Municipalities, all County Boards of County Commissioners, the Mayors and governing bodies of all municipalities within Sussex County, and the New Jersey State Board of Education.
- 4. This resolution and contract shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Township Clerk.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Governing Body of the Township of Fredon, In the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on June 9, 2022.

Suzanne Boland, RMC Municipal Clerk